

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021411

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: N/A

REF: MOSCOW 1527

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING VOA RUSSIAN

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA AGREE THAT BRIEFING OF US CORRESPONDENTS WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE AT PRESENT.

2. ACCORDING TO BEST EVIDENCE AVAILABLE HERE THERE IS NO REPEAT NO INTENTIONAL JAMMING OF BBC OR DEUTSCHE WELLE, SELECTIVE OR OTHERWISE. THIS CONCLUSION BASED ON REPORTS OF VOA MONITORS AND ON CONSULTATIONS WITH BBC AND DW HOME OFFICES. MONITORS BELIEVE THAT DW INTERFERENCE MAY BE SPILLOVER FROM JAMMING DIRECTED AT OTHER STATIONS. SIMILAR INTERFERENCE OFTEN EXPERIENCED ON VOA FREQUENCIES UNLESS EMBASSY HAS FIRSTHAND EVIDENCE THAT JAMMING IN FACT TAKING PLACE SUGGEST THAT CORRESPONDENTS BE BRIEFED ALONG ABOVE LINES.

3. RE VOA PROGRAMMING SUGGEST EMBASSY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:  
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PAGE 02 STATE 021411

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO DECREASE IN AMOUNT OF NEWS AND POLITICAL COMMENT BROADCAST BY VOA TO USSR, AND IN FACT SCHEDULE CHANGES HAVE RESULTED IN OUR REACHING MORE PEOPLE WITH SAME AMOUNT OF MATERIAL.

B. MIDNIGHT POLITICAL PROGRAM NOT DROPPED BUT SHIFTED TO 8 PM. MAIN POLITICAL PROGRAM STILL CARRIED AT 10 PM. ALL EVIDENCE SHOWS LISTENERSHIP FALLS OFF SHARPLY AFTER 11 PM. AND CHOICE OF MIDNIGHT FOR MAJOR PROGRAM IN PAST DICTATED BY NEED TO GET THROUGH JAMMING.

C. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY OF REPORTING ON INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS. VPA HAS ALWAYS REFRAINED FROM ORIGINATING COMMENT ON INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS. AT SAME TIME WE CONTINUE TO CARRY REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING OF WHAT RESPONSIBLE US AND WESTERN MEDIA SAY ON SOVIET AFFAIRS. FOR INSTANCE, SINCE PUBLICATION OF ARCHIPELAG GULAG WE HAVE CARRIED SOME 60 STORIES ON SUBJECT, MOST REPEATED 2-3 TIMES. IN ADDITION VIRTUALLY EVERY HOURLY NEWSCAST HAS DEALT WITH LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CONTROVERSY. ON JANUARY 31 ALONE VOA RUSSIAN CARRIED 7 STORIES ON INTERNAL MATTERS RANGING FROM REVIEW OF BIOGRAPHY OF BUKHARIN (FROM NY REVIEW OF BOOKS) TO OPEN LETTER FROM ECONOMIST PISAR TO SAKHAROV.

4. EMBASSY MAY BRIEF CORRESPONDENTS ON BASIS COMPUTER BREAKDOWN BUT IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS NOT COMPLETELY RELIABLE AS SOME MUSICAL BRIDGES ETC NOT REFLECTED IN COMPUTER PRINTS. SAME CRITERIA USED IN COMPUTER INPUTS BEFORE AND AFTER JAMMING STOPPED, HOWEVER, AND RATIOS ARE COMPARABLE. MOST RECENT AVAILABLE FIGURES INDICATE THAT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER 1-22 MUSIC AMOUNTED TO 11.2 PERCENT OF OUTPUT, NEWS TO 18.2 PERCENT.

5. FYI JACKSON CRITICISM OF VOA WAS NOT IN FACT CONTAINED IN SPEECH AS ACTUALLY DELIVERED TO AJC, THOUGH HIS STAFF INDICATED THAT PRESS RELEASE STANDS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JAMMING, RADIO BROADCASTING  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** MOSCOW 1527  
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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
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**TAGS:** SCUL, UR, US, VOA  
**To:** MOSCOW  
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